



**DATE** July 1, 2018

**SPEAKER** Paul Clark

**TITLE** One Fool is Enough

**SERIES** David is the most written-about character in the Bible. He's most often remembered for all the good in his life, but like us, he had his fair share of failures. What can we learn from all the good, the bad and the ugly woven together in David's story?

Today we continue studying the life of David, the central character in the Old Testament. Today's focus is on 1 Samuel: 25. We have a lot to learn from David's "greatness-in-the-making" story:

- 1) While in Carmel, David and his men watched over Nabal's shepherds, protecting them from thieves. David was doing a good work for Nabal while in the wilderness. However, not only did Nabal fail to recognize what David did for him, Nabal delivered several very insulting and disrespectful messages to David: "You're a nobody. You're no better than a wandering thief with a band of murderers. You deserve nothing!" Talk about a time you were insulted or disrespected for doing a good deed. How did you expect the person to respond and how did they actually respond?
- 2) Reflect on the contrasting character exhibited by David in different seasons: "The battle is the Lord's" (1 Samuel 17:45-47) to "Strap on your sword" (1 Samuel 25:12-13). Compare it with seasons in your own life when you may have forgotten God's purpose and plan for your life. How can you guard against missing out on God's favor, especially when God's promises seem far away?
- 3) Think about a time you were in the wilderness. We know God was there, even though oftentimes it feels like He isn't. How did God show up throughout your time in the wilderness (through friends, family, church, etc)?
- 4) Pastor Paul points out that both David & Abigail's wilderness experiences were not their fault. They did not do anything wrong, yet God brought them into the wilderness to teach them things only the wilderness could teach. How can you reframe your wilderness experience to be less about you and what you did and more about God and what He did/is doing? What is He showing you about His love as you reflect on the experience? What is He showing you about yourself?
- 5) Reflect on Abigail's intervention and how she reminded David of his calling. Talk about an "Abigail" you have or have had in your life. What was special about your Abigail's words that "brought you back to your senses"?
- 6) We heard that David's heart was soft enough to receive a word of correction from Abigail. What does David's heart teach us about how God works through correction? Just as Pastor Paul asked Pastor Nathan about potential blind spots, is there someone in your life you would be willing to ask to speak into your life about your blind spots? If so, what next steps is God asking you to take in this area (remembering that God loves you and wants to see you become who you were created to be in Christ!)?

- 7) Pastor Paul challenges us to "Name our Nabal", bring it to God, and make a plan to destroy it because as Warren Wiersbe states, "The sin you fail to slay will slay you." What is your Nabal? Do you have a plan to destroy it? Who can you reach out to help you make a plan?

This week, lets reflect: Do you know a David in the wilderness? Are you being called to be his/her Abigail?